

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~A method of reducing endotoxin induced cytokine production in a human patient suffering from cachexia or body wasting in a human patient with liver cirrhosis, the method comprising administering to the human patient an effective amount of a compound that is able to reduce the production, absorption and/or the effect of an endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide).~~

A method for determining, ameliorating, and treating endotoxin-mediated cachexia in a human patient, the method comprising the steps of measuring the level of a cytokine or an inflammatory marker or its production in the blood of the patient and if any such level is elevated, administering to the human patient a therapeutically effective amount of a bile acid selected from the group consisting of chenodeoxycholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, cholic acid, and deoxycholic acid.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, further comprising treating, preventing or ameliorating endotoxin mediated immune activation in body wasting or cachexia in a human patient with liver cirrhosis the method comprising administering to the human patient an effective amount of a compound that is able to reduce the production, absorption and/or the effect of an endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide).~~

The method according to claim 1, wherein cachexia is due to cancer, renal failure, heart failure, rheumatoid arthritis, AIDS, aging, or bacterial infection.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid compound is able to bind to an endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide) molecule.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid compound is able to reduce the available endotoxin in the patient.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 1 wherein the compound is a bile acid.~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of TNF α , IL-6, CD14, CrP, procalcitonin, LPS levels, and white cell count are determined.

6. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid administered to the human patient is ~~any one of ursodesoxycholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, cholic acid and deoxycholic acid.~~

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The A method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is administered orally.

21. (Currently amended) The A method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is administered intravenously.

22. (Currently amended) The A method according to claim 1 wherein the bile acid
~~compound~~ is administered rectally.

23. (Canceled)